

AIR

PBSUCC SS-RYBAT

HGG-A-754

~~SECRET~~

Lincoln

Chief of Station, Guatemala

INFO: Chief, W.D.

Transmittal of Current Information to Lincoln

Running Memorandum No. 5

Reference: HGG-A-755

1. Attached for Lincoln and Headquarters is one copy of the fifth in the series of running memoranda containing current information being prepared by the members of this station.
2. Identities follow in a separate dispatch.

Clara M. Heagey

Enclosure:

Running Memorandum as noted

23 February 1954

CMH

Distribution:

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**CIA HISTORICAL REVIEW PROGRAM
RELEASE IN FULL**

2003

PBSUCCESS-RYBAT

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MEMORANDUM

17 February 1954

1. On 9 February 1954 Identity 1, a driver/guide employed by two local tourist companies, stated that he had been ordered* by Guillermo PALMIERI, head of the Guatemalan National Tourist Bureau, to drive a party of five persons, in an official NTB car, to Lake Atitlan, Sololá and Quezaltenango on 6 and 7 February 1954. The five passengers were:
 1. Carlos Manuel PELLECE, Guatemalan Communist.
 2. Cesar MONTENEGRO Paniagua, Guatemalan Communist.
 3. Rafael AVILA, Cuban delegate of the Federación Sindical Mundial (FSM) to the second national congress (29-31 January 1954) of the Confederación General de Trabajadores de Guatemala (CGTG).
 4. Antonio CABRERA, Argentine delegate of the Confederación General de Trabajadores de America Latina (CTAL) to the CGTG congress.
 5. Giuseppe CASADEI, Italian delegate of the FSM to the CGTG Congress.

Although Identity 1 was warned by PALMIERI not to repeat anything that he had overheard during the trip, Identity 1 made the following statements to Identity 2 on 9 February 1954:

1. CASADEI was obviously the spokesman of the group and repeatedly acted as though he were instructing the others as to objectives, methods, etc.
2. The main topic of conversation was the need to create trouble for the U.S. at the OAS meeting at Caracas, Venezuela in March 1954. Regarding methods to be used to create such trouble, a transportation strike is being considered and was discussed by the passengers.
3. CASADEI stated that on a continuing basis it is necessary to create and sustain anti-U.S. sentiments throughout Latin America. Guatemalan campesinos must be aroused to hostility toward the Spanish (whites), landowners, and city dwellers of Guatemala and the people and government of the U.S. The following means to achieve this end were discussed: convince the campesinos that the Spanish and landowners and particularly the U.S. are trying to force ARBENZ to discontinue land distribution under the Agrarian Law; the U.S. is planning to invade Guatemala, using atom bombs if necessary to subdue the people; arouse the campesinos with such threats and call on them to defend their homeland, etc.; the congress of the Confederación Nacional Campesina (CNC) scheduled for 19-21 February 1954 will be utilized to engender such hostility and organize and anti-U.S. demonstration before the U.S. Embassy.

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4. It was stated that CASADEI, AVILA and CABRERA planned to travel to other Latin American countries to discuss (with unidentified contacts) plans for disruptive activities at Caracas and hemispheric techniques for creating anti-U.S. feeling. CASADEI said he expected to confer (with unidentified contacts) at Santiago, Chile for these purposes (Comment: CASADEI departed Guatemala 8 February 1954 PAA flight 515 en route Tocumen, Panama)

The five persons listed above and source stayed overnight at Lake Atitlan on 6 February 1954. The following day (7 February) they drove to Sololá where CABRERA and MONTENGRO remained to attend a local labor meeting. The others continued on to Quezaltenango to attend a labor meeting addressed by PELLECEER (who received guidance on the contents of his speech from CASADEI). PELLECEER, AVILA, CASADEI and source returned to Guatemala City the evening of 7 February 1954. It is not known when or how MONTENEGRO and CABRERA returned to the capital from Sololá.

*Comment: Driver/guides are licensed by the NTB and can be "ordered" to accept such assignments or have their licenses cancelled

(Immediate source: A; Ultimate source: F; Contents: 2).

G.L.T.